



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

June 30, 2006 - Update

AFFECTED FARMERS REVITALIZE CROPS WITH USAID HELP

More than 9,400 farmers in the fertile Kaghan, Siran and Konch Valleys of North West Frontier Province, who lost crops, equipment and livestock in last year's earthquake, will reap a maize harvest this fall from seeds funded by USAID. The maize seed allows farmers to build back their agricultural output and ensures food for their families this winter.

Farmers in this mainly agricultural area were busy harvesting maize when the earthquake struck. Harvested crops were buried under collapsed houses or shops, and standing maize was left to rot in fields because residents were hobbled by emergency needs. To address this shortfall, USAID and the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), procured nearly 189 metric tons of maize seed, enough to sow more than 7,500 acres of land.

Last week, about 100 farmers, community members and local agricultural and elected officials gathered in Balakot city to thank USAID and FAO for the seed. Fida Mohammed Khan, a Mansehra District farmer, praised the American government for its help immediately after the earthquake and encouraged USAID to continue working with local governments to distribute seed.

RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE IN DADAR



Photo: Shahid Mahmood/USAID

After completing an intensive excavation of the rocky soil, USAID construction contractor, Associates in Development, is now laying footings for a reinforced foundation at Dadar Boys Model High School. USAID has begun surveying the Pakistani government's recommended school reconstruction sites to determine whether schools are located at serviceable, environmentally secure locations that are accessible to the handicapped. The Earthquake Reconstruction program will begin construction of 50 schools and 15 clinics in its first year of operation.



Photo: Shahid Mahmood/USAID



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: Zachary Orend/USAID

Transitional shelters in Basul Village meld traditional designs with new materials.

CUSTOMIZED TRANSITIONAL HOMES BRING COMFORT AS VILLAGE REBUILDS

The 500-year old village of Basul is a collection of five hamlets located 1,500 feet above the beautiful Siran valley. Here, villagers raise livestock and carve plots of flat land out of the steep mountains to grow corn and wheat. Basul was hit hard by the earthquake – almost all buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Since last November, USAID-sponsored programs have trained local carpenters to construct earthquake-resistant shelters and organized the community to work together to rebuild. Each family was provided with corrugated iron roofing sheets, heavy plastic tarps and foam insulation to make construction affordable.

By springtime, all 87 families in Basul were living in transitional shelters. To help families feel more at home, shelters were “customized” with the ornately carved, brightly colored doors and windows salvaged from damaged sod homes.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

FAST FACTS ON SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE:

Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338
Injured: 69,412
Homeless: 2.8 million

Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309
Injured: 6,622
Homeless: 150,000

U.S. Assistance as of June 30, 2006:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged: \$510,000,000

- \$300 million in economic assistance
- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- at least \$100* million from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$85.6 million in humanitarian assistance, including more than \$6.7 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of its overall response, USAID has provided more than \$31.5 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at www.usaid.gov.

**For information on giving visit:
www.safewinter.org**

*Actual amount of donations to date is \$151.7 million (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)